

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-<sup>15</sup>~~16~~ (canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A fuel injector for use in projecting directly into a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, the fuel injector comprising:
- a fuel inlet;
  - a movable valve-closure member;
  - a fixed valve seat to cooperate with the valve-closure member to open and close a valve; and
  - a downstream valve end including a component and a fuel outlet, wherein:
    - the fuel outlet includes at least one discharge orifice of the component,
    - the at least one discharge orifice is arranged downstream of the fixed valve seat,
    - the component includes a coating around the at least one discharge orifice, including at least in an immediate exterior of an outlet area of the at least one discharge orifice, and
    - the coating includes a layer containing fluorine.
17. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the layer containing fluorine includes fluorosilicate (FAS).
18. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the layer containing fluorine includes a heat-resistant PTFE-similar layer.
19. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the internal combustion engine includes an externally supplied ignition.

20. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the internal combustion engine includes an auto-ignition.
21. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the coating is provided in a ring shape around the at least one discharge orifice on a downstream exterior surface of the component.
22. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the coating is provided over an entire surface of a downstream exterior surface of the component.
23. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 21, wherein the coating extends into the at least one discharge orifice.
24. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the layer containing fluorine is applicable by spraying.
25. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 22, wherein the coating extends into the at least one discharge orifice.